

6-8-1-1637
MCP 12

Evaluation C3

Date obtained 3 November 1950

SOURCE: The following information comes from a fairly reliable source who has close connections with several Hungarian prelates in exile and high clerical circles in Rome.

1. Monsgr. Jozsef ZAGON, Apostolic Visitor for all Hungarian refugees, acts as the official representative of the Hungarian Catholic Church outside of Hungary. He was born in 1909, studied first at the Bishops' Seminary in Győr, then at the Pannoneum in Vienna where he completed his studies cum laude. In 1935 ZAGON was consecrated priest at the Diocese of Győr and was immediately assigned by the late Bishop of Győr, Istvan Breyer, to his palace as Professor Religion at Győr High School. Later he became cathedral preacher. In 1941 Monsignor Zagon was appointed to the post of Chancellor of the Ordinariate of the Diocese by the late Bishop Baron Vilmos Apor of Győr (he was executed by the Soviets in the spring of 1945).

2. This appointment was reconfirmed by Bishop Apor's successor, Bishop Kalman Papp of Győr. Subsequently, he became Canon. However, because of his outspoken anti-Communist attitude, the Monsignor was forced to flee Hungary in 1948. He has since been living at Mitters in the vicinity of Innsbruck.

3. On 5 August 1950 ZAGON was appointed Apostolic Visitor for Europe and several weeks later, in early September, he became Apostolic Visitor for all Hungarians living in exile. He has subsequently been recognized as such by all bishops in Austria, Italy, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. It is expected that eventually he will receive recognition from all other bishops in the western world. ZAGON's office is presently located in Innsbruck but he plans to transfer it to Rome.

4. Although Monsignor ZAGON is reported to have never taken sides in western-oriented politics (and requires similar attitudes from all priest responsible to him.), he is nevertheless keenly interested in Hungarian developments. His personal opinion is that shortly after the withdrawal of the Soviets from Hungary, the Catholic element, which comprises 67 per cent of the total population of the country and the only large scale spiritual resistance to date, will have to play an important role in the rebuilding of the country. It is for this reason the Monsignor ZAGON gives all possible support to the education of young Hungarian in exile and observes very closely the current developments in Hungary.

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SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3028
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006